

LESSON 65

Elisha's Ministry

2 KINGS 4:1-37



BIBLE TRUTH

ELISHA'S LIFE AND MINISTRY POINT TO CHRIST

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 2 Kings 4:1–37 from the Scriptures or read story 65, “Elisha’s Ministry,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Fill the Jars
SUPPLIES:
✓ a dozen jars of various sizes including one large jar (the larger the better)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Two Stories of Raisings
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
✓ coloring page 65—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Guest Storyteller
SUPPLIES:
✓ invite an actor to retell the account of Elisha raising the woman’s son; a man can take the role of Elisha and a woman can take the role of the mother.
✓ costume for the actor (Earth-toned fabric remnant with holes cut in the middle and rope belt would work fine.)

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Elisha multiplies the oil—As Elisha follows in Elijah’s footsteps as a prophet of Israel, God does powerful miracles through him. We’ve already learned how through Elijah, God fed a widow and her son in the midst of a drought when they had no food to eat. Elisha does something similar for another widow. This widow has debts to pay but no money to pay them with. So Elisha, demonstrating the love and mercy of God, does a miracle and multiplies her oil so that she has oil to sell in order to pay her debts.

Elisha opens the womb of a barren woman—Elisha prophesies that a child will be born to a woman whom no one expects to have a child. Clearly, Elisha wields God’s great power just like Elijah did.

Elisha raises the dead son—When the same woman’s son suddenly becomes sick and dies, she demonstrates great faith in God. Even though her son lies dead, she twice says, “All is well.” Then, rather than hurrying back to her son along with Elisha’s servant, she insists on staying with Elisha. Elisha then raises the boy back to life in the same way Elijah had once done with another child.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 2 Kings 4:32–37.

God uses Elisha to multiply a widow's oil, to give a wealthy woman a son, and now here in this story, to raise her son after he dies. The miracles that Elisha performs illustrate God's power and point to the day when God would send another prophet even greater than Elisha.

When Jesus comes, he also performs miracles. He turns water into wine and multiplies a few fishes and loaves of bread to feed a crowd of more than five thousand. Jesus heals the sick and even raises the dead. Jesus also dies on the cross for our sins and is raised from the dead so that we can have new life. The new life God gave the young boy through Elisha is a small hint of the new life God gives to all his children.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read 2 Kings 4:1–37 from the Scriptures or read story 65, "Elisha's Ministry," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

Fill the Jars

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a dozen jars of various sizes including one large jar (the larger the better)

Tell the story of the widow and act out the story as you go. Use a very small container to represent the widow's oil, and as you act out the story, pour it into the larger jars.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Why do you think God used Elisha to help the widow?**
(The woman came to Elisha in faith knowing he was a man of God and believing God would have mercy on her. Also, God has special compassion upon orphans and widows—those who cannot take care of themselves. Here we see a widow and children who lost their father [Psalm 146:9].)
- **How does this miracle of Elisha point to Christ?**
(Jesus, on several occasions, multiplied bread and fish to feed a multitude. Here, Elisha is used by God to multiply the widow's oil so she can pay her debt.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2

10 MIN

Two Stories of Raisings

Read the two accounts of the raising of the widows' sons by Elisha (2 Kings 4:18–37) and by Jesus (Luke 7:11–17).

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **How are these two stories similar?**
(Two sons of widows are raised from the dead.)
- **Why do the people call Jesus a great prophet after he raises the widow's son?**
(These people remember Elisha and the other great prophets whose stories are recorded in Scripture. In a sense, they have it backward. Jesus was not sent to remind us of the prophets of old, the prophets of old were sent to prepare the way for Jesus and point to him! Jesus is the greater prophet!)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 65—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Where did Elisha tell the widow to go to pour the oil?
(inside her house and to shut the door behind her)
- What does this story teach us about God’s power?
(God is all-powerful and able to multiply the widow’s oil.)
- Where did the widow get all of the empty jars?
(from her neighbors)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Guest Storyteller

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ invite an actor to retell the account of Elisha raising the woman’s son; a man can take the role of Elisha and a woman can take the role of the mother.
- ✓ costume for the actor (Earth-toned fabric remnant with hole cut in the middle and rope belt would work fine.)

It is amazing how drawn to the story children become when drama is introduced in the retelling. Tell the children that you invited Elisha or the Shunammite woman to tell the story. Invite him or her in, and then at the end, encourage the children to ask questions.

LESSON 65 - ELISHA'S MINISTRY

